

Mary Jo Peters  
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"I am writing to provide comments to the FCC on E-Rate NPRM, proceeding 13-18. The E-Rate program is vital to the educational goals of Hondo ISD in Hondo, TX. We are a small rural school district. With the 77 percent discount rate, we are able to provide our teachers and students with connections and communications services outside the district. I can honestly say that would not be possible without the

E-Rate Discount program.

We are feeling the pressure to increase bandwidth and reduction of many funding sources. It is difficult. We ask that the funding cap increase so that we can continue to provide the resources to our students and teachers that will prepare them for the future.

We realize that other schools have needs and we truly appreciate the Priority 1 discounts we receive; however, our infrastructure is aging and we desperately need to have access to products and services listed in Priority 2.

The E-Rate program has been a phenomenal success in bringing internet access to almost every classroom in America. In the last funding cycle, applications from schools and libraries requested a total of more than \$5 billion—twice the amount of available funding. I respectfully urge the FCC to increase funding for the E-Rate program to at least \$5 billion to meet this demand. All students need access to high-speed broadband. Our nation's future depends on their success.

Thank you for asking for input and your support of education in our country.

Regards,  
Mary Jo Peters  
Director of Technology  
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